

VISION STATEMENT 2030

By the year 2030, the West Maple Neighborhood is a vibrant neighborhood. The entrance from Route 130 welcomes visitors. There is landmark signage and a green space area that signifies the transition into our neighborhood. There are active commercial businesses along Route 130 that provide an attractive front door to the neighborhood and incorporate landscape features to adequately buffer and screen the residential portion of the neighborhood from the effects of the commercial corridor. There is a sidewalk that allows pedestrians to safely walk to destinations along the Route 130 corridor. There is also a new bus shelter for riders of public transportation.

Maple Avenue is a thriving mixed use district. There are first floor storefronts and residents living on upper floors of buildings. Doorways, windows, and signage encourage street level interest. There are ornamental brick sidewalk elements, planters, street trees, benches, signage, café seating, and other elements that are geared towards the pedestrian experience. The existing light industrial uses integrate into the neighborhood, using landscaping, screening of outdoor storage, and pedestrian-scale signage and lighting. There are no new light industrial uses.

The neighborhood is pedestrian-friendly. Sidewalks and streets are clean and well-maintained. Pedestrians can conveniently and safely cross Maple Avenue near the footbridge and at the intersection of the Federal Street Overpass. There are crosswalks at many of the intersections, vehicles drive at appropriate speeds in the neighborhood, and there are places for residents to get a bite to eat and shop in the neighborhood. The bakery and café are favorite morning spots for neighborhood residents to get a cup of coffee and share pleasantries. The local restaurants are rich in cultural heritage and great food. The neighborhood is business-friendly with increased parking areas for customers. Wellwood Park attracts residents and local community groups who use the park for sports activities, family picnics, after-school enrichment programs, senior programs, and community events.

Neighborhood residents enjoy a good quality of life. Residents vary in age, socio-economic status, and ethnic backgrounds. Residents watch out for each other and lend a helping hand, when needed. The neighborhood is drug-free. A Joint Municipality Neighborhood Watch is highly effective in reducing both juvenile and petty crime occurrences in the neighborhood. The housing stock continues to be diverse and is well-maintained. Yards are flanked with shrubs and seasonal blooms. Alleys are paved, well-lit, and free of debris. There are increased rates of homeownership. Marketing time for real estate sales is short, due to the high level of interest in the neighborhood. Properties listed for sale are comparable in price and quality with other residential areas in the community. There is a renewed sense of pride in the neighborhood.

The West Maple Neighborhood Task Force has morphed into a neighborhood organization. It is comprised of neighborhood residents, businesses, property owners, and municipal liaisons from all three communities, serving as the voice of the neighborhood. The organization is active in the ongoing neighborhood revitalization efforts and spearheads inter-municipal planning activities, including infrastructure improvements, beautification efforts, and economic development. It is active in planning neighborhood events, including clean-up days, neighborhood barbecues at the park, as well as other fun events. There is a strong sense of community in this multi-jurisdictional neighborhood.